



POLICE COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JAN 20, 2016
MUNICIPAL CENTER, 1 SCHOOL ST MEETING ROOM "B"

ATTENDING: CHAIRMAN MIKE DUFF
COMMISSIONER ANTHONY RUBINO
COMMISSIONER RICHARD KOLWICZ
COMMISSIONER AMY MANNION
CHIEF JEFFREY FINCH

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER RICHARD BARTON

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2016 JAN 22 P 1:16

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

Chairman Duff opened the meeting at 5:15 p.m.
The Commission pledged allegiance to the flag.

1. Election of Officers for 2016

Chairman Duff opened the meeting for motions

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to nominate Mike Duff to continue in the position of Chairman for 2016; seconded by Comm Rubino. A unanimous voice vote confirmed Mr Duff in this position.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to nominate Anthony Rubino to continue in the position of Vice Chairman for 2016; seconded by Comm Mannion. A unanimous voice vote confirmed Mr Rubino in this position.

2. Candidate Interviews – *Executive Session*

At 5:21 motion by Comm Mannion to go into executive session for purpose of candidate interviews and invite Chief Finch to attend; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

At 7:00 the Commission came out of executive session to consider the Oxford St issue (see 5b).

At 7:15 motion by Comm Kolwicz to go back into executive session; seconded by Comm Rubino – vote passed with one absence.

At 8:20 the Commission came out of executive session.

Motion by Chairman Duff to offer employment as a Bethel police officer to Ms. Jessenia Beamonte conditional upon a satisfactory background investigation and other standard and regular requirements of the State of Connecticut and the Town of Bethel. Further such an offer be extended to Ms Amelia Fekieta and Mr William Girolametti and

Mr Brett Chockey in that order conditional upon there being an opening in the next 90 days subject to a background investigation and the same standard requirements of the State of Connecticut and the Town of Bethel; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

3. Review of Past Minutes

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept the minutes of 12/16/15; seconded by Comm Mannion – unanimous.

4. Budget Report

a) Comptroller's Report

Nothing of concern seen by Commissioners.

b) CALEA refund of \$1,348.55

The difference between the estimated expense bill paid in advance and the actual expenses incurred was refunded to the Department.

c) Overtime Report

The \$20K overspending from last-year-to-date was reported by Chief Finch as being "not bad" in light of past manpower shortages of six within the last year. One opening is still empty and three officers are out due to injuries as well as those at the Academy.

5. Old Business

a) Monthly Reports

Chief Finch went over the UCR (Uniform Crime Report) and a number of comparisons year-to-year.

b) Oxford St

In his report Lt Dickinson speaks of outdated signs. Nothing additional is recommended for Oxford St. Chairman Duff expressed the Commission's understanding of the speeding situation and asked that the Department conduct a poll each of the 19 residents on the street concerning the installation of speed bumps. Chief Finch stated if 17 of the 19 residents are in favor of the speed bumps he would recommend the Commission consider them. This information should be available by the next scheduled meeting. The problem, according, to Chairman Duff, is the danger of coming up with a solution which creates a worse situation than the original problem. (ref minutes 12/16/15 item 1).

Motion by Comm Mannion to accept Lt Dickinson's report on Oxford St and have the Department survey Oxford St residents to define the problem and report back; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

c) Cherry La

In his report Lt Dickinson recommends 20mph speed signs on Cherry La east of Fairfield Dr. The lieutenant does not believe the evidence of his research supports the problems as occurring to the extent reported by residents in the October meeting. Chief Finch suggested moving on this recommendation and then try to evaluate if anything additional can be done. (ref minutes 10/21/15, New Business 3rd item).

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to approve Lt Dickinson's recommendation of 20mph signs on Cherry La; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

d) 98 Chestnut St

In this complaint, two adjacent residences had out-of-control cars crash through their fences one in 2004 and the other in 2016. Due to the nature of the road, the Commission agreed with Lt Dickinson's recommendation to install guardrails to protect the houses in question. The Commission also asked that Chief Finch initiate selective speed enforcement.

e) Chairman Duff – *other traffic concerns/locations*

(See minutes of 12/16/15, first item #9 Commissioner Comments). Per the direction of the Chairman and the Chief, Lt Dickinson prepared a list of Commission authorized fixes and changes passed as the town's traffic authority along with the current status of action accomplished. The Commission discussed those items, some passed a year or more ago, still pending. Commissioners will consider before the next meeting.

6. New Business

a) Big Chili 5K – Feb 21st 2016

Chief Finch reported this as the 3rd year this event has been run, beginning in Danbury and running through Bethel. No serious issues of concern have been reported over the past two years.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to approve of the Big Chili 5K race; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

b) Dispatch (9th) Projection Cost

Directed at the last meeting (12/16/15 #3 Budget Report) to construct a cost comparison of hiring a ninth dispatcher (going from 1 to 2 on the midnight shift) vs utilizing overtime, the Commission discussed overtime against a new hire.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to instruct Chief Finch to fill the 9th dispatcher on the midnight shift through overtime; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

c) Revised Budget Projection 2016-2017

Chief Finch described several bookkeeping line item changes he had to make to the proposed budget for 2016-2017. A new dispatch hire as described above (6b) will result in a budget increase up from the present 2.07%.

d) New Employee

Chief Finch asked that the new Records Clerk, Maria Wallenta, be moved from pay step 1 to step 2 because of her previous experience and employment at the Department as a dispatcher.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to move Maria Wallenta from pay step 1 to 2 effective 1/20/16; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

7. Correspondence

- Offs LaJoie/Robinson - \$100 Donation Letter

- Sgt Kaluta Retirement Letter

- Various Thank You Letters (5)
Sent by Chief Finch

8. Police Building

The Commission discussed various matters moving forward from the Community vote to proceed with the construction of a new police station.

9. Chief's Report

- Assorted Data & Informational Reports

Sample reports were in the hands of Commissioners

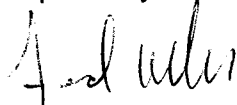
- Off Cleary is attending a 1 week dog/handler tracking training course in North Carolina

10. Commissioner Comments

Comm Kolwicz asked that Candidate Interview meetings be held separately from scheduled Commission meetings because long hours entailed reduces one's "focus".

At 9:28 motion by Comm Kolwicz to adjourn; seconded by Comm Rubino - unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,



Ferdinand Miller Jr
Secretary